

DAILY NEWS

10th ANNUAL

CITIZENSHIP

NOW!

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FREE HELP!

with immigration and to become a citizen

Our 10th annual call-in begins tomorrow

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STARTING TOMORROW

10th annual call-in program to mark 100,000th caller helped

BY ERICA PEARSON

Citizenship NOW!, the call-in program that offers free immigration information to thousands of Daily News readers annually, returns Monday.

The partnership between The News and the City University of New York, which has grown to become the largest call-in of its kind in the country, is marking two milestones.

"We celebrate assisting over 100,000 people with their immigration questions, and that it's the 10th time we do it," said Daily News columnist and CUNY Citizenship Now! director Allan Wernick. "This is a special year for the Citizenship NOW! program."

Starting Monday and continuing through Friday, an army of more than 400 volunteers will answer readers' questions from 9 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily.

Calls are answered in English and Spanish, as well as numerous other languages, including; Mandarin or Cantonese,

Russian, Korean, Haitian Creole and Polish. TTY/TTD is also available.

Some of volunteers speak as many as seven languages. And some have participated in every single Citizenship NOW! call-in.

At a volunteers' training session this month, Daily News Editor-in-Chief Colin Myler thanked them and hailed the success of the project.

"One of the things, as an editor, you take great pride in is making a difference," Myler said.

"The Citizenship NOW! program is a huge initiative for a paper like the Daily News that really does have a heart-beat close to its readers in their communities."

The dedicated volunteers' photos are profiled on the following pages. They will answer calls on 48 lines.

The volunteers come from the American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), the Legal

Aid Society, New York Immigration Coalition, CUNY School of Law and other CUNY campuses and CUNY immigration centers. Representatives from many other

community-based organizations and elected officials' offices also will staff the phone banks.

The phone numbers to call will be published in The News on Monday. All information is provided to callers confidentially and free.

The annual call-in has helped more than 97,000 immigrants since its launch, giving out information on topics such as visas, travel, citizenship and sponsoring family members. Callers are also referred to CUNY's immigration centers.

This year, organizers are looking forward to helping the 100,000th caller.

Wernick had a message for city immigrants who want to become citizens: Don't procrastinate!

"It is an election year, and there's a tremendous demand for people to become citizens," he said.

But because the process of becoming a citizen takes four months from start to finish, immigrants will need to file by the end of May to register in time to vote this November, Wernick explained.

"The call-in is coming just in time for people to get the information they need to apply in time to be able to vote – if they get right on it," said Wernick, who also is a professor at Baruch College.

The 10th annual Citizenship NOW! is supported once again by media partner Univision and a host of other generous sponsors: Cisco; BlueWater, a Presidio Company; AILA; the Legal Aid Society; WADO 1280, La Que Buena and Gristedes.

For information about the call-in and the volunteers, visit NYDailyNews.com/CitizenshipNow2012.

epearson@nydailynews.com

A free and confidential hotline



ALLAN WERNICK'S

column on immigration law appears every Wednesday and Friday in the Daily News. He is a professor at Baruch College and director of CUNY Citizenship Now! He is also the author of "U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Law – Your Complete Guide" and has been the driving force behind Citizenship NOW!

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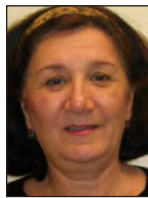
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TAMARA ABAYEVA is a Met Council immigration specialist based at the Queens Jewish Community Council. She prepares forms for naturalization and adjustment of status.



ALBERT ADES, a lawyer in private practice in Manhattan, has more than 30 years of experience in immigration law. He is former chapter chairman of the AILA.



ELIZABETH ADRIEN-DANIEL has been an employee of Medgar Evers College for more than 17 years. She takes pride in giving back to a cause like Citizenship NOW!



MOHAMMAD AKRAM is the first vice president of Community Education Council District 21 in Brooklyn. He is fluent in Sindhi, Hindi, Punjabi and Urdu.



AIDA ALAOUIE is an admissions counselor at Borough of Manhattan Community College. She is fluent in Arabic.



CARMEN ALCANTARA is graduating this summer from Bronx Community College and moving on to John Jay College with plans to attend law school.



FELIPE ALEXANDRE is a public defender with the Monroe County Public Defender's Office in Rochester.



ANA J. ALMANZAR is the New York program manager of civic engagement at the NALGO Educational Fund. She is an alumna of SUNY and Columbia University.



MINERVA ALONSO is a solo attorney practitioner with 20 years of law enforcement experience. She is originally from Cuba.



CARLOS ALVAREZ is a college student who is a very active volunteer for CUNY Citizenship Now!



LIANA ANTONENKO is a migration counselor at Catholic Charities of New York and a volunteer at the Ukrainian Congress Committee of America. She is fluent in Ukrainian.



CAMILO APARICIO is a paralegal and volunteers with CUNY Citizenship Now! He is fluent in Spanish.



SIMONE N. ARCHER is a partner at Archer Harvey & Smith LLC. Practice areas include immigration law, personal injury and general civil litigation matters.



ELIZABETH AVILES volunteers with CUNY Citizenship Now! It has been a great experience for her to help people, including those that speak only Spanish.



MOHAMMED AYUB is a Ghanaian-American, veteran of the U.S. Navy and an NYPD auxiliary police officer. He teaches Arabic and speaks Akan, Ga, Hausa and Kotokoli.



CINDY BAILEY is a CUNY alumna and a 2010 recipient of the Malave Leadership Award. She is a paralegal with a passion for social justice and advocacy.



AVIS BASCOM is a tax preparer, bookkeeper and organizer. She also is an assistant secretary at PARBAMEL and a volunteer with CUNY Citizenship Now!



RACHEL BASKIN is an associate at O'Malley & Associates, an immigration firm in downtown Manhattan. She works on all types of immigration cases.



YOLANDA BASTIDAS is a senior paralegal and Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representative at the York College Immigration Center. She is a graduate of Queens College.



IAN BECKFORD has a Doctor of Education degree and is the academic assessment manager for learning outcomes at Queensborough Community College.



CYNDI BENDEZU is a graduate student at Columbia University's Teachers College and an advocate for immigrants' rights.



RAJ BHUSHAN practices before Immigration Court and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services. He has offices in Brooklyn.



TAMARA R. BLOOM, an attorney, is the legal coordinator at CUNY Citizenship Now! She is a graduate of Binghamton University and CUNY School of Law, and a member of the AILA.



REINA BOAZ is the managing attorney of Reina Boaz Law PLLC, a boutique immigration law firm. She has nine years of experience in U.S. immigration law.



RODDY BOLAÑOS, an attorney, is an adjunct assistant professor at the Queensborough Community College Center for International Affairs, Immigration & Study Abroad.



MIMO BOULEFRAXH has been a devoted CUNY Citizenship Now! volunteer since last July.



BOSONDO BRAUN is a volunteer for CUNY Citizenship Now!



LILIANA BUCUR is a consultant for WAFUNIF/United Nations and has a master's degree in international affairs. This is her fourth consecutive year with the call-in.



SONIA CARDONA is an admissions counselor at CUNYXpress, a welcome center in Washington Heights that provides financial aid and immigration information.



SOFIA CARREÑO is the interim communications and college relations specialist for CUNY Citizenship Now! She speaks Spanish.



RANDALL CHAMBERLAIN is an immigration lawyer in private practice.



MELISSA CHAN works for CUNY Brooklyn College. She has an advanced immigration law certificate from the CUNY School of Professional Studies.



MARTHA CHARLES-GLENN is the director of international student services at Bronx Community College and a member of the National Association of Foreign Student Advisers.



SUSAN CHONG is a senior paralegal and Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representative at the CUNY Citizenship Now! Flushing Immigration Center in Queens.



KAREN CINTRON has been an administrative assistant at CUNY Citizenship Now! for more than five years. She is in the Master of Fine Arts program at Queens College.



ADRIANA CIRES has a master of laws degree in international legal studies from New York University, and practices immigration law. She is fluent in Romanian.



HARRY COPSON is a student at Hostos Community College. He is the president and founder of the Criminal Justice Club.



WALESKA CRUZ is a paralegal with CUNY Citizenship Now! at Hostos Community College. She graduated from the New York City College of Technology.



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MALORIE COMETESSA is the host of her own television show, Plugme TV "Where We Connect," where she covers community events and the music industry.

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YVONNE HUARINGA is a paralegal and Board of Immigration Appeals accredited representative in the Legal Aid Society's immigration law unit. She is fluent in Spanish.



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MARISABEL KANIOROS-ABBAS is a legal assistant for LatinoJustice PRLDEF, an organization that defends the civil rights of Latinos. She is fluent in Spanish and Greek.



ALLEN KAYE has practiced U.S. immigration law for the past 37 years. He is a past national president of the American Immigration Lawyers Association.



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CORDELL R. KYDD is a paralegal and 2005 graduate of the New York City College of Technology. She has been a volunteer with Citizenship Now! for several years.



KIM M. LAING-REYES has more than 15 years of experience in corporate and family immigration and global visas.



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MARISOL LOPEZ is a senior at Hostos Community College who hopes to further her education at either Hunter or Lehman College in the fall.



JULISSA LORENZO VÁSQUEZ earned a B.A., magna cum laude, at City College. She has been an employee of CUNY Citizenship Now! for two years.



KAYDEEN MAITLAND is a graduating senior at Northeastern Academy in Manhattan. Previously, she volunteered at an immigration law office.



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CARLA MALATESTA came to the U.S. from Peru at age 15 and at 22 became a U.S. citizen. In 2006, she went to school to get a degree in education and English.



EUGENIO (GINO) MALDONADO has been the chief of operations at El Puente in Williamsburg since 1994 and a long-term activist for fair housing and education reform.



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CLYDE MARIN is a volunteer with CUNY Citizenship Now!



STAN MARK is a senior staff attorney at the Asian American Legal Defense and Education Fund. He represents and assists immigrants with 9/11-related illnesses.



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DARRION MAYE works for the NYC Department of Education and has a master's from Adelphi University. Originally from Jamaica, she likes to give back by volunteering.



ANNA McCOMBS is a senior at Hofstra University School of Law. A native of Poland, she's also a licensed real estate broker and is fluent in Polish.



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DELCIA REID volunteers for the Emmanuel Seventh Day Church Ministries and the Maurice Maitland Social Security firm.



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MARIELY RIVERA is getting her associate's degree in paralegal studies at Bronx Community College. She is expected to graduate in May.



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KARLA ROSERO KAHN has been an immigration staff attorney at the Emerald Isle Immigration Center since 2009. In 2010, she opened a private practice in her hometown of Brooklyn.



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RENEE SALDANA-RAMIREZ is a GED and ESL instructor and counselor at Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service Inc. She has been working with immigrants for 19 years.

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ANNA DEMIDCHIK is a student at Hofstra Law School and a co-founder and vice president of the Hofstra Immigration Law Society. She speaks Russian and Chinese.



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LAMPETO (BETTE) EFTHYMIO is the academic adviser for the Center for International Affairs, Immigration and Study Abroad at Queensborough Community College.



FLOR DE MARIA EILETS worked as community adult education program director at Little Sisters of the Assumption Family Health Service, Inc.



VICTORIA ESPADA-CERON came to New York City in January 1982, not speaking any English. She learned the language and now works in community service programs.



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KYMETE GASHI is the special projects coordinator at CUNY Citizenship Now! and program director for the Albanian-American Academy. She is fluent in Albanian.



ANFORD GAYLE is a full-time student at CUNY's Borough of Manhattan Community College.



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BRENDA GRAY is director of risk finance for the Mayor's Office of Contract Services, Central Insurance Program.



EVA GRECH is a constituent liaison for the New York State Senate. She is fluent in Spanish.



GINTARE GRIGAITĖ, an attorney, practices in employment and family-based immigration law, and defense in removal proceedings.



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JANET HERNANDEZ is a student majoring in criminal justice. She is an intern at Citizenship Now! Flushing Immigration Center.



ROBERT HOLLANDER is a principal at the Law Office of Robert Hollander. He has 20 years of experience in immigration law.

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ALMIRCA SANTIAGO is the director of programs for the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights. A graduate of Syracuse University, she is fluent in Spanish.



SWATI SAWANT, a licensed New York attorney, is passionate about human rights and volunteers for immigrant rights. She has a master's in human rights law.



WINDESSA SEYMOUR is a senior at St John's University, where she will graduate with a B.S. in legal studies. She plans to attend law school.



HARRY SHULMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and a member of the New York Chapter Pro Bono Committee.



GINETTE SICOT SAINT JUSTE has a nursing degree from Mexico and has been in the U.S. for 26 years. She is fluent in Creole, French and Spanish.



JEAN SIMILIEN is a social worker and has been a paralegal since 1992. He is fluent in Creole and French.



KEISHA SIMON is an admissions counselor at John Jay College. She finished her M.A. at Brooklyn College and will finish her advanced certificate in immigration law this spring.



MAGDALENA SLIWA has a bachelor's degree in paralegal studies and works as a paralegal. She has over five years of experience and has previously participated in the call-in.



ROSEY SOPARIWALA is a first-time volunteer for CUNY Citizenship NOW!



JOHN STAHL is an immigration attorney and the director of legal services at the Emerald Isle Immigration Center. He has been practicing immigration law for eight years.



JUDITH STEPHEN is a CUNY Citizenship Now! volunteer. She has an A.A.S. in public administration and is finishing her B.S. in criminal justice at John Jay. She speaks Spanish.



BETTY ST. VICTOR has 20 years of paralegal experience as an assistant to executives in a telecommunications company. A native of Haiti, she speaks French and Creole.



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JESUS SURIEL GUZMAN is a volunteer with CUNY Citizenship Now!



SAHIN TASTAN is the international student representative at Borough of Manhattan Community College.



JOY TAVARES is a first-time Citizenship NOW! volunteer.



CELESTE TEJEDA is a recent volunteer with Citizenship Now!



RAMON TERCERO is the assistant to CUNY's university director of language and literacy programs. He has a master's and an advance certificate in immigration law.



ANELL TORRES SOUFFRONT is a junior at Lehman College pursuing a bachelor's degree in the computer information system field. She was born in the Dominican Republic.



JULISSA TORRES is a first-time volunteer for Citizenship NOW!



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IVONNE ZARATE is a volunteer with CUNY Citizenship Now! who has participated in three events so far. She also has worked as an intake coordinator during tax season.

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IRIS AROYEWUN-BIRCHWOOD is the director of Hunter College's international students' office. She has been in the field of international education for many years. She is fluent in Spanish.

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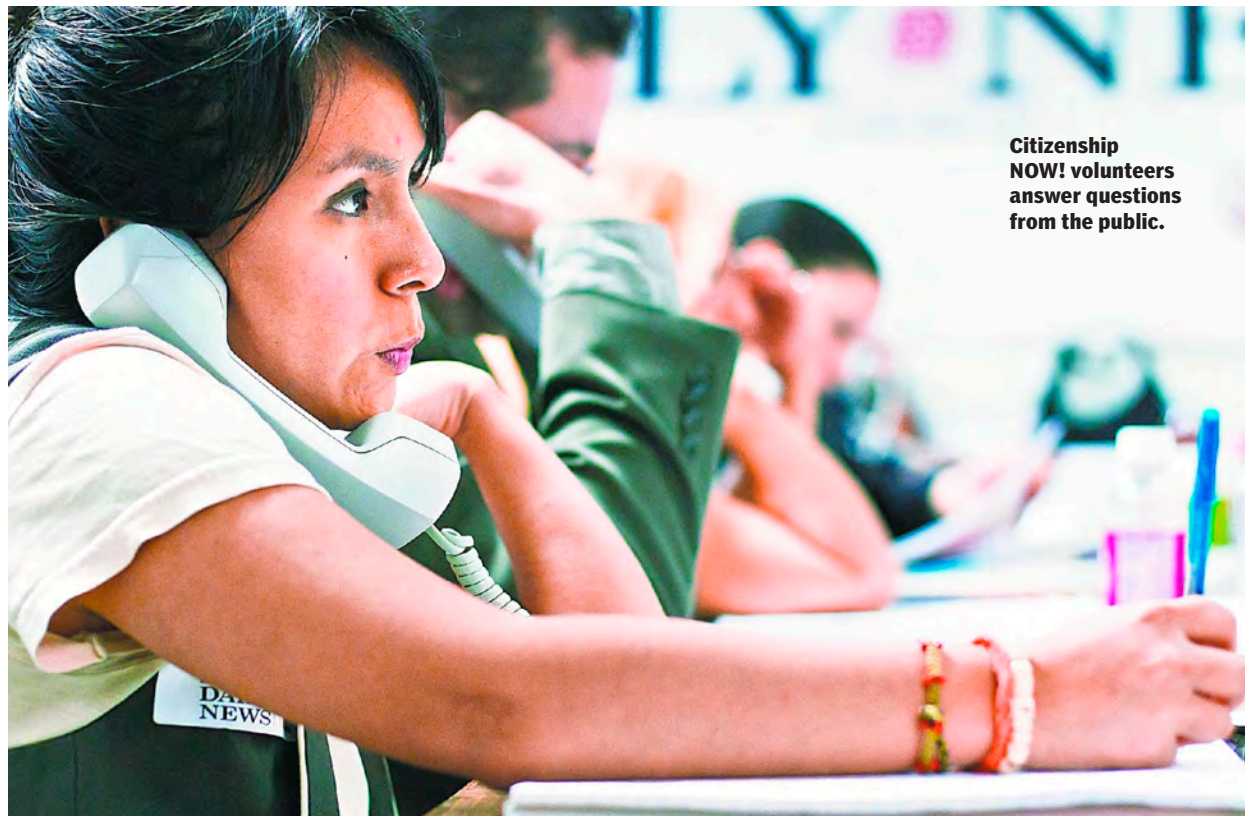
LYSON BAZILE is a volunteer for CUNY Citizenship NOW!, assisting at the citizenship and TPS events.

WILLIAM BOYLE is the staff attorney at the CUNY Citizenship NOW! City College Immigration Center. He is a graduate of University College Dublin and was admitted as an attorney in New York in 2006. He is a member of the AILA.

JULIANA BRIJESKI was born in Croatia and volunteers at CUNY Citizenship NOW!

CYNTHIA BURNS attended CUNY York College, where she received a certificate for paralegal studies. She is a biological science technician at the FDA.

ALTAGRACIA CACERES studies English in York College's CLIP program. She is fluent in Spanish.



Citizenship NOW! volunteers answer questions from the public.

PATTY CHOW is a legal caseworker in the 1199SEIU Citizenship Program. She has 15 years of experience with immigration matters and is fluent in Cantonese.

SUSAN E. COUGHLIN is the manager of legal administration & immigration at United Water in Harrington Park, N.J.

ANA L. DAVILA is the supervising attorney at Steps to End Family Violence and an adjunct professor at CUNY School of Law. She is fluent in Spanish.

ARIEL DEL ROSARIO is the coordinator of enrollment services at John Jay College. He is a designated school official for currently enrolled F-1 international students.

NESTOR H. DIAZ is a lawyer for over 20 years. He practices immigration law and criminal defense. He is a former assistant district attorney and is fluent in Spanish.

DANIELLE DIMITROV, an attorney, is the director of the Office of Diversity and Compliance at the College of Staten Island/CUNY.

MARK DRUCKER has more than 30 years of immigration law experience and is an adjunct professor at CUNY's School of Professional Studies. He is fluent in Spanish.

RODOLFO ESTRADA is an attorney and the executive director of the Northern Manhattan Coalition for Immigrant Rights.

JACKELYN FLORES is a volunteer with CUNY Citizenship NOW! and is attending her first call-in. She is pursuing paralegal studies at Bronx Community College in the Bronx.

NICOLE FRANCIS has been on the board of directors of the Caribbean Women's Health Association for 14 years. She has been a part of AmeriCorps national volunteer service.

JEREMY GARCIA has been part of CUNY since 2003, starting at John Jay College and currently working at Hunter College in the IT department. He is pursuing an MPA degree at John Jay.

DAVID GRUNBLATT is a partner at Proskauer, where he heads the Immigration Practice Group. He served as chairman of the New York Chapter of AILA, the NYSBA and the NYCLA immigration committees.

RAYNAL JABOUIN is a volunteer with Citizenship NOW! He is a NYS licensed social worker and a divorce mediator. He is fluent in Haitian Creole, French and Spanish.

CONCETTA MENNELLA is an attorney, full-time faculty member and chair of the Law and Paralegal Studies Department at New York City College of Technology.

SONIA NAZAIRE is a volunteer with CUNY Citizenship NOW!

ANN O'SULLIVAN is the coordinator of international student services at Lehman College, where she advises students on immigration procedures. She has 22 years of experience in international education.

LENNOX PENROSE is a certified credit consultant for LNSP Credit Repair Company.

GREGORY PIETRZAK is an attorney and partner in the law firm of Macina & Pietrzak, LLC, in New York City. He has been practicing in the field of immigration law for over 15 years.

MARGARET PRICE has a master's degree in business administration and is a recent graduate of the Paralegal Studies Program at Bronx Community College.

DIANA RICHARDSON is a first-time volunteer at the Citizenship NOW! call-in.

MICHELLE SABIO is the coordinator of international students at York College.

JOY SCHULMAN is continuing her 40-year history of advocacy.

SAFIYA STEWART attends Queens College and is a volunteer with CUNY Citizenship NOW! since November.

JACQUELINE STOUTE-KING is a project and finance consultant.

AURA V. VARGAS is a native of Colombia and has a master's in public administration and is working toward her Ph.D.

FATHIA ZOUYEN is an attorney in private practice.



U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-N.Y.) greets and thanks volunteers at The Citizenship NOW! call center. "What's happening here is very inspiring," she said.